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I would like to know the process for selection of the Teacher of the Year announced at Honors Day

Submitted by: Michael Moore

11/19/2003

Question:

I would like to know the process for selection of the Teacher of the Year announced at Honors Day. What is the University's role in the selection?

Rationale:

According to the faculty member who conducts the election, selection of the FOY honors only those faculty who teach large classes. Some colleges are excluded in this process. If this is entirely student run--fine--but if the University is involved then there is concern.

SEC Response:

Gamma Beta Phi conducts the nomination and selection process. Faculty must have completed 3 years at Georgia Southern to be eligible. Voting is conducted on WINGS. The department heads for the top five candidates are contacted for letters of support, and Gamma Beta Phi meets to pick the winner. The University is involved only via WINGS being used for the nomination process, and through the Honors Committee providing time during the Honors Day Convocation for the presentation of the award. Ed Walker, chair of the Honors Committee, thinks that the award came about when Georgia Southern was of such a size that all technically eligible faculty would have been more truly eligible. The Senate has no real jurisdiction in this matter, but Cyr (CLASS) encouraged discussion of the topic between interested faculty and Gamma Beta Phi.

Senate Response:

Cyr (CLASS) addressed an information request regarding the Teacher of the Year Award. The faculty member filing the information request was concerned that faculty who teach large numbers of students, especially in core classes, have won the award with greater frequency than those whose assignments are weighted to smaller upper division and graduate classes. Gamma Beta Phi conducts the nomination and selection process. Faculty must have completed 3 years at Georgia Southern to be eligible. Voting is conducted on WINGS. The department heads for the top five candidates are contacted for letters of support, and Gamma Beta Phi meets to pick the winner. The University is involved only via WINGS being used for the nomination process, and through the Honors Committee providing time during the Honors Day convocation for the presentation of the award. Ed Walker, chair of the Honors Committee, thinks that the award came about when Georgia Southern was of such a size that all technically eligible faculty would have been more truly eligible. The Senate has no real jurisdiction in this matter, but Cyr (CLASS) encouraged discussion of the topic between interested faculty and Gamma Beta Phi.